



Ministry of Northern
Development and Mines

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Friday, February 29, 2008

News Release

Ministry of Northern Development and Mines

February 05, 2007 - 032

Ontario Granted Intervenor Status In Far North Mineral Exploration Dispute

TORONTO – The Ontario government is pleased to have been granted intervenor status to participate in injunction proceedings between Platinex Inc. and Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug (KI) First Nation. The Honourable Mr. Justice G.P. Smith released his decision on Friday, February 2, 2007.

The province looks forward to formally participating in the court proceedings and helping to pursue a workable way forward in this matter. The intervenor motion was heard January 26, 2007 at the Ontario Superior Court in Thunder Bay.

Although Ontario was not a party to the injunction proceedings between Platinex and KI, Mr. Justice Smith's interim order in July 2006 required that a consultation process be developed for the Platinex drilling project and that the Crown be involved. The Ministry of Northern Development and Mines will continue its efforts to develop such a consultation process with the community and Platinex.

The Ontario government remains committed to working cooperatively with First Nations to support increased participation by Aboriginal peoples in decisions that affect their lives. It recognizes the Crown's obligation to respect and honour the Aboriginal and treaty rights of communities and that communities have a right to be appropriately consulted and accommodated as set out in recent Supreme Court decisions.

Mr. Justice Smith's February 2, 2007 decision confirms, as does the Supreme Court of Canada, the importance of all parties engaging in a reciprocal, constructive consultation process.

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